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EGYPT FOILS ANTI-NASSER BOMB PLOT

Reports Aired As Cairo
Chief, Raps U.S. On
Aid Conditions

Beirut, Lebanon, July 22 (AP)—Re-

ports of a foiled plot to bomb President Gamal Abdel Nasser's villa filtered out of Cairo today as Nasser charged the United States with making "astonishing" demands in return for aid.

Two newspapers here reported the bomb plot on the eve of the thirteenth anniversary of the revolution that brought Nasser to power.

The President told a Cairo holiday eve crowd of 500,000 that acceptance of United States demands would have turned Egypt into an American colony. He said the United States had asked Egypt to refrain from producing nuclear weapons, halt production of missiles, freeze the size of its Army and allow United States inspectors to check compliance.

War Called Inevitable

Nasser also told the cheering crowd that war with Israel is inevitable, but Egypt would choose the time for it.

"Friendship with the United States is not achieved with pressure or with the activities of the CIA," he declared apparently in a reference to the arrest of a prominent Cairo journalist and the questioning of a United States diplomat.

The newspaper *Le Soir* of Beirut said the arrest of the well-known Egyptian journalist Mustafa Amin was connected with the case.

But in Cairo the Government news agency asserted that Amin was picked up at his home in Alexandria yesterday as he passed security information to Bruce Taylor Odell, 27, political attaché of the United States Embassy in Cairo. It claimed both were connected with the United States Central Intelligence Agency.

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Without giving its source, *Le Soir* said Mohammed Issa Nasr, Air Force squadron leader, seized an Ilyushin bomber July 16 at Maamoura Airport to bomb the villa in Alexandria where Nasser was staying.

By *Le Soir's* account airport control officers saw Nasr and his confederates loading bombs aboard the plane, challenged them and four of the plotters were killed in a melee. But Nasr and a companion managed to take off in the plane and were shot down 40 miles west of Alexandria, *Le Soir* said.

The newspaper added that in addition to Amin, many others were arrested, including two high foreign officials and a high official of the national Defense Ministry.

Another newspaper, *Le Jour*, said bombing of the villa was intended as a prelude to a military coup d'etat to stop the country's "drift to the East."

It added that the plotters planned to form a provisional government under Nasser's one-time partner, former President Mohammed Naguib, now under house arrest.

The paper said 53 persons in-

cluding high officials were under arrest.

In Cairo, the Government news agency said Amin was arrested in Alexandria as he handed over to Odell a weekly report containing information harmful to Egypt's security. It reported Odell also was arrested but was released upon claiming diplomatic immunity.

Called CIA Agent

The agency charged Odell actually was a CIA agent and was collecting "political, economic and military information harmful to the security of the country." It called Amin "an agent of the CIA."

Envoy Called To Meeting

There was no comment from the United States Embassy in Cairo. When the report first leaked out Wednesday, however, the State Department denied any member of the embassy had been arrested. It said an officer of the embassy happened to be at Amin's home in Alexandria when Amin was arrested, was questioned by police but later returned to Cairo.

The agency said the report handed to Odell had questions written in his handwriting and the answers were written by Amin.

United States Ambassador Lucius Battle was summoned to a brief meeting with Mahmoud Riad, Foreign Minister, to discuss the affair.

Odell, from Massachusetts, lives with his wife and three young children in the Cairo suburb of Maadi. There was no report whether he had been asked to leave Egypt.

Informed sources in Cairo said the agency's account of the incident was distorted. They reported Amin has social engagements from time to time with Americans and was having a routine luncheon with Odell when arrested.

The sources said Odell was detained for 90 minutes and released after showing an American diplomatic passport.

Amin edited the nationalized weekly newspaper *Akhbar Al-Yom*. The newspaper follows Nasser's Government line and Amin himself has occasionally written anti-American editorials.

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